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August 15, 2006

Mr. Paul Sewell
Acting Director - Art Unit 2150
United State Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Patent Application Nos:
10/461,175, filed 6/12/2003, our file no: 047546/263871
10/613,129, filed 7/3/2003, our file no. 047546/263855

Dear Sir:

We received a verbal indication in mid May of 2006 from the Examiner associated with the above identified applications (David Lazaro) that the claims were to be allowed in both cases. Further, the status in PAIR indicates "allowance counted." However, as of today, we have not yet received any official communication regarding either application, and it appears that the status of PAIR has not been updated since March for these applications. As these applications were transferred during examination from the 3600 Art Unit, it appears that the inordinate delay may be related in some way to the transfer of the applications to the 2155 Art Unit.

We have been unable to ascertain the status of the application via telephone calls to the Examiner, or his supervisor, as their visibility to the files apparently ends after they have granted allowance. Therefore, we ask that you look into the matter. We would also like to bring to your attention that the 10/461,175 application was petitioned, and granted, "special" status.

We thank you for your efforts in assisting us with ascertaining the status of the two applications.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karl H. Koster".

Karl H. Koster

KHK:khk
cc: Mark Longo

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